

Mark Shepard, Legislative Analyst
651-296-5051

State Agency Head Salaries

This information brief:

- describes the process for establishing salaries for heads of state executive branch agencies; and
- lists salaries for agency heads, including increases put into effect on an interim basis by a legislative committee in July and September, 2000.

Salaries for executive agency heads are proposed by the appointing authority and approved by the legislature.

The executive appointing authority proposes salaries for agency heads, within maximums established in law. [Minn. Stat. § 43A.18, subd. 5](#). The governor is the appointing authority for most agency heads. Some are appointed by other boards (e.g., public pension boards).

The 2000 Legislature increased the maximum salary for most agency heads from 85 percent to 95 percent of the governor's salary, and increased the maximum for several agency heads from 75 percent to 85 percent of the governor's salary. [Minn. Stat. § 15A.0815, subd. 2 and 3](#). The governor's salary is \$120,303 (95 percent of this amount is \$114,288; 85 percent is \$102,258).

This publication can be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please call 651-296-6753 (voice); or the Minnesota State Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 (TTY) for assistance. Many House Research Department publications are also available on the Internet at: www.house.leg.state.mn.us/hrd/hrd.htm.

Salaries recommended by the appointing authority must be approved by the legislature. During the interim between legislative sessions, the Legislative Coordinating Commission (LCC) may give interim approval to salary increase proposals. The LCC has appointed a Subcommittee on Employee Relations (SER) to perform these and other duties. Salary proposals from the governor submitted to the SER during the interim are approved if the group does not modify or reject them within 30 days. Salaries implemented during the interim by the SER must be approved by the next legislature, or they revert to the prior level. Salary proposals sent to the legislature during a legislative session must be approved by the full legislature before taking effect. [Minn. Stat. §§ 3.855 and 43A.18, subd. 5.](#)

In July 2000 the SER approved the governor's proposals for salary increases for certain agency heads.

Cabinet Agencies	Former Salary	Salary Retroactive to January 1, 2000	Salary Effective August 1, 2000
Administration	\$97,301	\$102,258	\$108,393
Agriculture	97,301	102,258	108,393
Children, Families and Learning	97,301	102,258	108,393
Commerce/Public Service	97,301	102,258	108,393
Corrections	97,301	102,258	108,393
Economic Security	97,301	102,258	108,393
Employee Relations	97,301	102,258	108,393
Finance	97,301	102,258	108,393
Health	97,301	102,258	108,393
Housing Finance Agency	97,301	102,258	108,393
Human Rights	97,301	102,258	108,393
Human Services	97,301	102,258	108,393
Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board	85,879	90,227	95,641
Labor and Industry	97,301	102,258	108,393
Mediation Services	85,879	90,227	95,641
Metropolitan Council, Chair	52,500	55,178	58,489

Cabinet Agencies	Former Salary	Salary Retroactive to January 1, 2000	Salary Effective August 1, 2000
Minnesota Planning	\$97,301	\$102,258	\$108,393
Natural Resources	97,301	102,258	108,393
Pollution Control Agency	97,301	102,258	108,393
Public Safety	97,301	102,258	108,393
Revenue	97,301	102,258	108,393
Trade and Economic Development	97,301	102,258	108,393
Transportation	97,301	102,258	108,393
Veterans Affairs	97,301	102,258	108,393

Non-Cabinet Agencies	Former Salary	Salary Retroactive to January 1, 2000
Gambling Control Board	\$85,879	\$88,455
Metropolitan Airports Commission, Chair	20,226	20,833
Ombudsman for Corrections	67,505	69,530
Ombudsman for Mental Health and Retardation	85,879	88,455
Pari-mutuel Racing	85,879	88,455
Public Utilities Commission	85,879	88,455

The 2001 Legislature must approve these increases if they are to remain in effect. If the legislature rejects them, or adjourns without action, the increases will cease to be paid. However, amounts already received would not need to be re-paid.

There is a different method for setting the salary of the lottery director. This salary is set in statute. In 2000, it was increased to 95 percent of the governor's salary (\$114,288) instead of 85 percent.

Some agency heads are appointed by boards, not by the governor.

The salaries for these officials are as follows:

State Board of Investment	\$108,393
Minnesota State Retirement System	\$ 90,225
Public Employees Retirement Association	\$ 90,225
Teachers Retirement Association	\$ 90,225
Higher Education Services Office	\$ 97,300

Two of these salaries were established by the SER in September 2000:

- The \$108,393 salary for the executive director of the State Board of Investment (an increase from \$102,258).
- The \$90,225 salary for the executive director of the Teachers Retirement Association (an increase from \$88,456, retroactive to July 1999).

The 2001 Legislature must approve these two salaries if they are to remain in effect. The salaries for the directors of the Public Employees Retirement Association, the Minnesota State Retirement System, and the Higher Education Services Office director were approved by the 2000 Legislature and have not been increased since then.